

FRIENDS OF THE CLAN MACLEAN HERITAGE TRUST

Report of the Calendar year to 31st December 2011

One again I would like to begin this annual letter with a large thank you to all of those Friends who have either renewed their membership, or become new members of the Clan Maclean Heritage Trust in the last 12 months.

Firstly, the accounts of the Heritage Trust. In the last financial year to the 31st March 2011 as well as receiving a number of personal donations, several of the Associations gave donations that were much appreciated. Clan Gillean in the United States and the England and Wales Association both gave donations, which have certainly boosted the funds of the Trust. In addition we had a very generous donations of £500 which has paid for one of the projects that has been undertaken in the year. In outline, our income rose by nearly £2,500 which left us with a surplus for the year of £2,228 which will help with the costs that the Trust will incur in 2012.

In 2011 we had completed of a number of projects. We also started planning in more detail for the events at the Gathering in 2012

The main projects that have been undertaken and completed in 2011 include –

1. The 600th Anniversary of The Battle of Harlaw. A Coat of Arms of Maclean of Duart was cast and fixed on the memorial to the battle outside Inverurie in Aberdeenshire. Sadly the 24th July was a cold and bitter day and not many local people attended the unveiling of the plaques. However, in the afternoon those Maclean's present had their own ceremony to remember Red Hector of the Battles who was slain at the battle 600 years ago.
2. A new Piping Tune for the Centenary Gathering in 2012. James Beaton, one of the Trustees of the Heritage Trust and the Piping Centre in Glasgow undertook to advertise and select a pipe tune to be composed for the Gathering in 2012. Over 25 Pipers entered the competition and the winner will be chosen in early 2012.
3. The Piping Bursary. Although the Piping Bursary has been advertised in piping circles, so far there have been no young pipers coming forward to be considered for the bursary. It is very much hoped that a young Maclean Piper will come forward and if you have any knowledge of young pipers who might be interested in the two weeks tuition at the College of Piping, please let the Secretary know.
4. The Book of Pipe Tunes. This has been mentioned in my report as Chairman for the last three years. It is now making real progress and we are hopeful that it will be available for the Gathering at Duart in June 2012. An enormous amount of work has been put into this by Col Donald Maclean and James Beaton, and I thank them for all the hard work that they have put into this project.
5. The Centenary Gathering 2012. A site has been selected for building a Cairn at the site of the Battle of Lichlee. This will be unveiled on the afternoon of Thursday 21st June and be followed by tea at Gruline House which is quite close to the site of Lichlee which is situated between

Knock and Gribun. I would ask that all Friends do let the Secretary know if they will be attending the unveiling and the Tea as we do require to know the numbers who are coming.

6. The Lady Maclean Fund. In the autumn the book 'Death or Victory' was published. This book for children has been very successful and at the end of the year had sold nearly 500 copies. The Trust owes a great debt of gratitude to Fiona Maclean of Ardgour for all the work that she put into that project as well as Alastair and Fiona White who published the book for the Trust. Any profits made from the sale of this book will be ploughed back into the work of the Heritage Trust.
7. The donation of £50 to the Mull and Iona Mod was awarded this year to our local Mull choir. This standing order runs until 2018.
8. Fort Dewart. Under Ian Macleans guidance the Fort Dewart project continues to take shape and it is hoped that something final will be achieved by 2013.
9. Genealogy. During the Gathering week it is hoped that we will have more space in Tobermory for those who wish to look for the details of their families histories. The Trust does realise that this is one of the most important issues for members of the Clan and we will have more help and a larger area than we had in 2007.

There are a number of other projects also under consideration but none of them have yet reached the stage when we can realistically give a date for completion.

In the autumn of 2011 Dr James Maclean retired as being Treasurer of the Heritage Trust. He is the only Treasurer we've had since the Trust we set up and we all owe him a great debt of gratitude for all the hard work that he has done as Treasurer. He has been succeeded by John Maclean who we welcome in this role.

Trustees: The Clan Trustees of the Maclean Heritage Trust are:- Lachlan Maclean of Duart and Morvern [Chairman], Allan Maclean of Dochgarroch, Col Donald MacLean [UK], Mrs Fiona Maclean of Ardgour [UK], Ian MacLean [Canada], James Beaton [UK], Sandra McLean [USA], Noel Robinson (NZ) and Alan McLean (France).

In the course of the year Brian McLean (Australia) retired as a Trustee. Noel Robinson and Alan McLean were appointed as Trustees during 2011. I look forward to their contribution to the Trust work in the years to come.

As you will have seen a number of the Trustees have been involved with various projects and I would like to thank them very much indeed for their contribution to the growth of the Heritage Trust.

I do hope we may see you at Duart during Gathering week (18th – 24th June).

Lachlan Maclean of Duart and Morvern

Finances:

A full set of Accounts are available from the Treasurer.

The new website which has been up-dated with forms for new Friends, can be viewed at www.maclean.org